



# ★ *The Border Star* ★

Official Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri  
"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

January – February 2020

## The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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Dennis Myers ~ (816) 769-6490

### Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall  
Village Heights Community of Christ  
1009 Farview Drive  
Independence, Missouri

### Visitors Always Welcome!

### Annual Dues

Individual ----- 25.00  
Family ----- 35.00  
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00  
Newsletter Only (no meetings) 10.00

### For Information

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Beverly Shaw ----- (816) 225-7944  
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### Mailing Address

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Independence, MO 64055

### Website

[www.CWRTWM.org](http://www.CWRTWM.org)

## President's Letter

*"In history, a great volume is unrolled for our instruction, drawing the materials of future wisdom from the past errors and infirmities of mankind."*

-- Edmund Burke

*"We can learn from history, but we can also deceive ourselves when we selectively take evidence from the past to justify what we have already made up our minds to do." -- Margaret MacMillan*

I am often asked why I study history. Which is usually followed by is that all you study and don't you get bored. So, here are the top six reasons I study history.

1. Learn about the past – Pretty self-evident however, notice the important word is *learn*. Anyone can read or study the past which would be a wasted endeavor if learning wasn't the prime objective.
2. What happened where we live and then walk the site – Nothing brings historic events to life like walking the place where the action took place. You will not truly experience history without looking on what the participants viewed. (A not so veiled endorsement of historic preservation)
3. Somehow I find comfort in knowing we have done it before. Or I should say we have done it before and survived – I would not be truthful if I didn't disclose that I have very deep concerns for our Country. Because I study history I know that we, as a nation have seen periods in our past as disconcerting as today if not worse and somehow we have survived and become better for it.
4. Study the dark times and rejoice in the good – I acknowledge that all of history is not pleasant. I prefer to understand the unpleasant and celebrate the moments of triumph of good over evil.
5. Study of people – People are creatures of habit. Individuals have participated in the same actions over and over throughout our past. If we study past actions maybe we will be able to predict future actions and possibly, just possibly stop evil before it can take hold.
6. I am trying to learn from by past so I don't it again – The study of history is personal, starting with your area of study. This personal study makes it incumbent upon you the student to take the lessons you have learned and apply them to your life. Not repeating past mistakes or repeating past triumphs begins with you.

That's why I study history. By the way, I never get bored and it is all I study.

Happy New Year to all. May we utilize in the new year the lessons we have learned from the past.

**Mike Calvert, President**  
**Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri**

## CWRTWM Calendar

### January 2020 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1109 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. “Show and Tell” by Members. Please consider sharing with us what you are reading, researching, collecting, etc. When you arrive, let Mike Calvert know so that he can schedule the presentations.

Dues will be accepted for 2020. Checks may be made payable to “CWRTWM” and given to Beverly Shaw, Treasurer. Single dues are \$25. Family dues are \$35, and Subscription to Border Star only is \$10. You can also mail your check to “CWRTWM, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, Missouri 64055.”

### February, 2020 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Village Heights Community of Christ Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Dan Smith: “Secret Orders and Spies of the Battle of Westport.” The prelude to the Price Missouri Campaign of October, 1864 was immersed in rumor and military speculation. The role of intrigue and secret societies particularly on the Confederate effort, such as the Order of American Knights or OAK, were widely believed to be laying the ground work for Confederate victory in Missouri in 1864. The origins and organizations of such clandestine groups will be discussed. In addition, the role of civilian spies at the Battle of Westport will be described from an eye-witness account.

## **Other History Events January - February 2020**

### Cathay Williams: Buffalo Soldier

Thursday, January 9, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Red Bridge Library Community Room, 453B Red Bridge Road, Kansas City, MO. John Bruce: Discover the story of Cathay Williams, the only documented female Buffalo Soldier and learn about her service in the 38th U. S. Infantry from 1866 to 1868. Program to be repeated at 4:00 p.m. at the same location. Registration required at (816) 942-1780.

### Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, January 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Boone County History Center, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Tom Rafiner: “A Chronicle of Missouri’s Burnt District, 1854-1870.”

### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Gina Powell, program; “Fort Larned Archeological Finds.”

### Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Diane Rogers, author: Lou’s Story: She Adder or Patriot.” You can go to the webpage, [www.dlrogersbooks.com](http://www.dlrogersbooks.com), to read the first chapter of the book.

### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins

Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Cheryl Lang, Manager of the Midwest Genealogy Center: “General Introduction to Research Materials.”

### Brown Bag Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 – Noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a program about 12:30 p.m. 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North building. Come upstairs from the street. Andy Akright: “The Mission Spring House.”

### Titanic

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Woodneath Library Community Hall 1 and 2, 8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO. Barbara Hughes portrays Mrs. Mahala Douglas and brings the events of April 14-15, 1912, and the sinking of the Titanic, to life through first-person accounts. Registration at (816) 883-4900.

### **Directions to Meeting Place; Village Heights Community of Christ Church**

The address is 1009 Farview Drive in northeast Independence, Missouri. Take Highway 291 north to Highway 24. Turn east about .8 of a mile to Farview Drive which is across the street from Hardee’s in Susquehanna Shopping Center. Turn north and you will find the church at the intersection of Farview and Swope Drive. The parking lot is on the east side of the church, and we enter from the east side to the fellowship room. If you are unsure if weather and road conditions will prevent a meeting, you may call Beverly Shaw on her cell phone: (816) 225-7944.

#### Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2020

Sunday, January 26, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. “Winter School Restoration” by project director Dan Rockhill, JL Constant, architect, and interpretive specialist Katie Winter. Suggested donation of \$3.00.

#### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, January 28, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29).

Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Dr. Harry S. Laver with the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College: “Union General Ulysses S. Grant.” Dinner Reservations must be made by Noon, Wednesday, January 22, 2020 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

#### Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2020

Sunday, February 2, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. T. Kevin Griffin: “The Most Famous Unknown Room in America.” Suggested donation of \$3.00.

#### George Washington Carver: America’s da Vinci

Monday, February 3, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Midwest Genealogy Center Programming Room 1, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. Diane Eilenstein: “George Washington Carver: America’s Leonardo da Vinci.” Born a slave in south-west Missouri and then abducted by outlaws, orphaned, and shunned at the local school, George Washington Carver persevered to become one of the nation’s finest scientists and inventors. Join rangers from the George Washington Carver National Monument for a look at Carver’s life, his efforts to help African American farmers, and his contributions to American society. Reservations at (816) 252-7228.

Same program to be repeated at 6:00 p.m. at the North Independence Community Room 1, 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. Reservations at (816) 252-0950.

#### Blacks in Blue at the Battle of Westport

Thursday, February 6, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

North Independence Community Room 2, 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. Dan Smith: “Blacks in Blue.” The substantial role of African Americans during the Battle of Westport is less well-known and sometimes omitted. Discover their key roles and heroism under trying conditions at Westport. Reservations to (816) 252-0950.

#### Underground Railroad: Where Did It Go?

Saturday, February 8, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Boardwalk Library Programming Space, 8656 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO. John Anderson: “Underground Railroad, The Who, What, and Where Did It Go?” Brother John shares the secret codes, symbols, agents, and songs of the Underground Railroad. Reservations to (816) 741-9011.

#### Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2020

Sunday, February 9, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Judy Sweets, historical researcher and genealogist, and Kerry Altenbernd, historian and John Brown interpreter: “They Put Up More Than Hay – Joel and Emily Grover, Their Barn, and The Underground Railroad,” Suggested donation of \$3.00.

#### Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, February 10, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Boone County History Center, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Andy Papen: “The Union Navy at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson.”

#### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 – Buffet menu, (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Tim Williams: “Old Zeke.”

#### The Lincoln – Douglas Debates

Thursday, February 13, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Keleher Learning Commons, Saint Mary University, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, KS. For more information, call (913) 758-6137 or by E-mail to Madeleine.Bryce@stmary.edu.

#### Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2020

Sunday, February 16, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Deb Goodrich: “Rake, Rambler, and Father to a U. S. Vice President – O. A. ‘Captain Jack’ Curtis.” Suggested donation of \$3.00.

#### Lincoln on Film-Saint Mary University

Monday, February 17, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Xavier Theatre, Saint Mary University, 4100 S. 4th Street, Leavenworth, KS. Dr. Gerald R. Butters, Jr.: “Lincoln on Film.” Lincoln may have hundreds of books written about him, but he has not frequently been a subject in motion pictures. While the time period of a film may reflect how he is depicted, Butters argues that it is the collaborative team (director, screenwriter) who are most prominent in shaping how he is portrayed. The major motion pictures on Lincoln will be discussed with special emphasis on the origins of the films. Free.

### Underground Railroad: Where Did It Go?

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

Grandview Library Programming Space, 12930 Booth Lane, Grandview, MO. John Anderson: “Underground Railroad: The Who, What, and Where Did It Go?”  
Reservations to (816) 763-0550.

### Brown Bag Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 – Noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a program about 12:30 p.m.  
3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North building.  
Come upstairs from the street. Father Bill Porter: “History of St. Agnes Parish.”

### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Wayne Schnetzer: “New Madrid and Island #10 Campaign.”

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2020

Sunday, February 23, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Jim Ogle, Executive Director of Freedom’s Frontier: “The Hidden History That Is Quindaro (And Why It Should Be Hidden No More!)”  
Suggested donation of \$3.00

### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29).  
Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Arnold Schofield: “The Ebony Militia (the 12th African American Kansas).” Dinner reservations must be made by Noon  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

### Coffee in the Civil War

Thursday, February 27, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.  
Smithville Library Community Room, 120 Richardson Street, Smithville, MO. Gregg Higginbotham: “Coffee in the Civil War – Too Thick to Drink, Too Thin to Plow.”  
Discover the important role coffee played to soldiers on both sides. Learn the many ways it was prepared and how it became a staple of army life. Reservations to (816) 532-0116.

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2020

Sunday, March 1, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Michelle M. Martin: A Shield Against the World – Opothleyahola and the Civil War in Indian Territory and Kansas.” Suggested donation of \$3.00

## **News about Members and Friends**

The Round Table sends its condolences to the family of **Harry Rinacke** who passed away on November 25, 2019. Harry was always the first to volunteer whenever we needed help installing or repairing our Civil War markers and he did the same thing for other history groups. He was also a volunteer at the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery to clean up the grounds.

We will also miss **Bob Tignor** who passed away on November 28, 2019. Bob was a volunteer at the 1859 Old Jail Museum.

We are glad to welcome back to membership **Sharon Kelley** and **Vicki Nave** who attended our December, 2019 meeting.

**Mary Ann (Hazzard) Yoder** has also rejoined us, but since she now lives in Tonganoxie, she probably won’t be able to attend meetings. Mary Ann has donated some items for sale to benefit the Round Table. One is a white porcelain pitcher which was a souvenir from Gettysburg; one is a 1905 copy of *My Lady of the North* by Randall Parrish (1858-1923), an American author of dime novels; and a framed and signed print of “The Christian General” by William L. Maughan (25” x 32” overall size) which shows General Robert E. Lee reading the Bible to a boy who presented him with it. We will have these for sale at the January 8, 2020 meeting. If you can’t attend but would like to bid on an item, you can call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944).

We want to thank **Mike and Cindi Calvert** for culling out duplicates of books in our collection at the Clay County Archives and making them available for sale at our December 2019 meeting. In addition, Mike donated VHS copies of “Civil War Journal” hosted by Danny Glover, the audio book Lincoln read by Gore Vidal, and souvenir T-shirts from National Park Days. Jim Beckner also donated statues of Santa from his collection. Thank you to the people who bought items totaling \$88.

**The Quantrill Society** received a donation of **Harold Dellinger’s** books when he passed away in 2019. They are now in storage and those not related to the Civil War may be put into a book sale in the spring. They also have a collection of Quantrill and general Civil War books which they would like to make available to members doing research. The Quantrill Society also received some framed Civil War prints from the estate of **Terry Elliott**. At the picnic in October 2019, the Quantrill Society was visited by **Rosemary Lankford** from Arkansas. She wrote the Encyclopedia of Quantrill’s Raiders which has been out of print, but she had a few copies printed which are available for \$40 by contacting the President, Cindy

Taylor at (620) 794-1084 or by E-mail to [taylorci53@yahoo.com](mailto:taylorci53@yahoo.com).

**The American Civil War Museum (ACWM)** recently opened on the ruins of the historic Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia. Tredegar was the place where immigrant, enslaved and free blacks, and U.S.- born white laborers forged more than half of the Southern States' domestically produced cannonry and large guns. This was the leading factor in the decision to relocate the Confederate capital from Montgomery to Richmond. In addition to artillery pieces, Tredegar produced ship parts, locomotives, train wheels, spikes, boilers, cables, and brass for the war effort. But it is best known for producing and testing the iron for a new, revolutionary warship that permanently changed naval warfare. The CSS.

Virginia was an ironclad built on top of the captured USS Merrimack. In 1862 it sank two wooden Union warships and grounded a third, the worst day in U.S. Naval history until Pearl Harbor 80 years later. It was soon countered by the quickly produced Monitor, a cheese box on a raft, at the Battle of Hampton Roads, the Monitor vs. Merrimack.

Congratulations to the **Friends of Arrow Rock** who are celebrating their 60th year (1959-2019) with various activities such as the gala on December 8, 2019 at the J. Huston Tavern.

In November there were various articles and Letters to the Editor in the *Examiner* and *Kansas City Star* about new restrictions that publishers of **eBooks** planned to put in place for the distribution of eBooks to public libraries. The articles brought out how eBooks benefit library patrons with special needs and learning disabilities such as dyslexia or other visual challenges. They can offer large print, fonts, and line spacing to make reading easier. Being light and easy to hold also helps those with physical disabilities. They are also handy for those who cannot leave their homes or have limited transportation.

Congratulations to **Steve and Carolyn Hatcher** on their retirement from running their Bed and Breakfast in Liberty. This gives them a lot more freedom to travel and undertake new activities. In honor of their new status, they have a new Email address which is, [2TWAers@gmail.com](mailto:2TWAers@gmail.com).

**Crosby Kemper III**, Executive Director of the Kansas City Public Library, has been nominated by President Trump to lead the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences in Washington, D.C. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, he would commute to Washington. However, the same administration has tried to close the agency for the past three years by trying to defund its annual budget of

around \$242 million. Perhaps Crosby should not quit his day job just yet.

In addition to building a new headquarters in Columbia, Missouri, the **State Historical Society of Missouri** has announced that its Kansas City branch will be relocated to the Miller Nichols Library on the campus of UMKC. It will expand from 3,100 square feet to about 5,100 square feet and most of its Kansas City collections will be stored on-site with an automated retrieval system.

Congratulations to the **Historical Society of Lee's Summit** for receiving a \$1,500 grant from the Truman Heartland Community Foundation to preserve artifacts.

The theme for **National History Day in Missouri** scheduled for April 25, 2020 is "Breaking Barriers in History." For more information you can go to [www.nhdmo.org](http://www.nhdmo.org).

New acquisitions by the **State Historical Society of Missouri** include the letters written by James Washington Woodard to family members in Polk County, Missouri, during the Civil War. One letter discusses the march of General Sterling Price's Missouri troops across Arkansas following the Battle of Pea Ridge, which Woodward refers to as "Elkhorn." The men survived for several days on parched corn and were sorely undersupplied. To view the letters you can go to [www.digital.shsmo.org](http://www.digital.shsmo.org).

**Dick Titterington**, member of the Kansas City Round Table and his wife are spending an extended time in Maine this winter and took the opportunity to go to Brunswick to visit the Joshua Chamberlain Museum. It's the house he lived in while President of Bowdoin College. Dick was interested in his Congressional Medal of Honor which Chamberlain apparently misplaced and considered lost. Many years later, after his death, someone found the medal in a book purchased at a yard sale. Luckily, the medal was returned to the family and is on display among Chamberlain's Civil War artifacts. Dick and Lynne will be coming back to Missouri in April 2020. Dick is the author of a new book called *Battle of Westport Driving Tour* (Beverly has copies for sale).

**The Union Cemetery Historical Society** has been very busy with the construction of two 16-niche columbaria in the cemetery. They are also exploring the possibility of vacant spaces in Section C of the southeast corner by having ground penetrating radar and hand probing. There may also be other vacant sites once the entries are completed for the online database called The Crypt-keeper. Discussions will then be held with Kansas City Parks and Recreation and the City of Kansas City regarding selling the plots.

**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI**  
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(Revised 12/24/19)

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